

**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Alan Maziarz, Chairperson
Art Bergman
Mary Jean Blezard
Mary Durkee
Jessica Fletcher
Amanda Lawrence

ABSENT

none

1. Call to Order

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 20, 2021

M/S/C: Fletcher/Durkee, to approve the Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda – *none*

4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence – *none*

5. Report on the Budget: Alan Maziarz

Chairman Maziarz reported that approximately 53% of their total budget has been expended. Line Item 5-645-645, Maintenance, is over budget due to the porta-potty rentals. Funds will soon be expended from Line Item 5-645-945, Weekend Access, as weekend recreation activities have begun in the Salem School Gymnasium/Multi-Purpose Room.

Chairman Maziarz reported that he missed the Board of Finance meeting to present their Capital requests and will be presenting them at the next Board of Finance meeting.

In response to Commissioner Bergman who inquired about the need to fund the recent repair of the basketball court in the Salem School Gymnasium, Chairman Maziarz stated that the School funded the repair(s). He proposed the possibility of attending a future Board of Education meeting to discuss funding the maintenance of the courts.

6. Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: Agnes Miyuki

The following Spring/Summer activities have been scheduled/in the works:

Yo Yin Ga Yoga Classes

Mondays, beginning in March, Salem Volunteer Fire Company, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Basic Dog Obedience Classes

Salem Community Park Pavilion, Wednesdays, March 23 to April 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Skyhawks Tennis & Golf Camps – skyhawks.com

Beginning Golf (Ages 6 to 10), Round Hill Road Soccer Field, Saturdays, April 2 to April 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tennis (Ages 6 to 8), Round Hill Road Tennis Courts, Wednesdays, May 18 to June 15, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Tennis (Ages 9 to 11), Round Hill Road Tennis Courts, Wednesdays, May 18 to June 15, 6:15- 7:15 p.m.

Other possible camps include Mini-Hawk, Multi-sport, STEM Flag Football, and Cheerleading.

LEGO Summer Camps – eyes4learning.com

Building Up STEAM Using LEGO (Ages 5-6), July 18 to 22, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

STEAM Works Using LEGO (Ages 7 to 9), July 18 to 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Challenger Sports Soccer Camp – challengersports.com

TinyTykes Program, Ages 2 to 3 and 4 to 5

International Half-Day (Ages 5 to 16) and Full-Day Camps (ages 8 to 16)

Fun4All Programs – fun4all.club

Outside the Lines Art Camp (1st to 6th grades), July 11 to 15, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Slime Week Camp (1st to 6th grades), July 25 to 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

CRPA Good Any Day Tickets –crpa.com/consignment-tickets

CRPA is offering the following tickets this year:

The Adventure Park

Connecticut Science Center

Lake Compounce

Mystic Seaport (offered by Salem Free Public Library)

Six Flags

Revolutions Bowling

CT Suns Basketball Team, Game 5 Semi Finals

Salem School Use Request forms will be submitted for the LEGO and Fun4All Programs.

Issues with utilizing the Pavilion included the weather and lack of storage.

She has contacted Salem School Principal Joan Phillips regarding the possibility of partnering with the School to offer afterschool Cursive classes. Commissioner Fletcher reported that the School is hoping to offer afterschool clubs/classes beginning in March.

She is also in the process of trying to organize a Spring camp(s) during the children's Spring break.

Chairman Maziarz reported that he has invited an individual who has expressed an interest in serving on the Soccer Board to one of the Commission's future meetings.

7. Public Works Report: Don Bourdeau, Tony Gallicchio – not present

Chairman Maziarz reported that the threshold for the Round Hill Road Concession Stand garage has been ordered. He will continue to reach out to and invite Public Works Foreman Gallicchio to join their meetings. Discussion ensued regarding the process and the turnaround time for their submitted requests, citing that the request for the threshold is dated December 22, 2021. Chairman Maziarz will inquire with the First Selectman's office/Public Works Department to establish an internal process for work order requests. The status of their other requests is unknown at this time.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Dog Park – Committee Update (LOI, Location)

The Dog Park Committee had a scheduled virtual Zoom meeting this evening. The project is temporarily placed on hold until a process is established and questions regarding its location and liability are addressed.

b. Trails & Kiosk/Info Center – Emergency Trail Markers

The Emergency Trail Markers will dovetail into the signage for the Disc Golf Course and the establishment of the walking trail at the Round Hill Road Fields. Commissioner Bergman will schedule the Eagle Scout(s) to attend their next meeting to discuss the project.

c. Disc Golf – Update & Subcommittee Plan

1) May Grand Opening Event Plan

First Selectman Ed Chmielewski thanked the Commission for their ongoing passion, commitment, and hard work. He reported that a positive meeting was held with Disc Golf Consultants and Designers Shawn Callaghan and Rob LeMire. He has also spoken with the heads of various town entities, staff, the Town of Guilford, and CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency), among others — all of whom expressed their support of the Disc Golf Course and the need to address the safety concerns, including the need for signage. He is confident that the enhancements can be made before the planned opening. The experience has led them to create a form, containing a checklist, to help guide and streamline the process and ensure that all projects on town-owned property obtain the necessary approvals.

In response to Commissioner Bergman who requested, even, a partial list of the safety concerns, First Selectman Chmielewski stated that he is in the process of gathering more information and creating the list; he did not wish to piecemeal the information. He welcomed the Commissioners to meet with him to discuss the information he has gathered. Commissioner Bergman also wished to ensure that no additional activity on the Disc Golf Course will take place without the Commission's approval.

Commissioner Blezard questioned the process to schedule a meeting with him. She also requested the establishment of a more expedient process by which their requests

are fulfilled, adding that their submission of the Citizen Request Forms has not been responded to in a timely manner. First Selectman Chmielewski agreed and explained that the unexpected extended medical leave of the Public Works Foreman and the unexpected loss of the Public Works Director's wife has resulted in delays. He recognized the need to streamline their communications. He stated that neither the Public Works Director nor the Foreman would be able to attend their meetings; a meeting could be scheduled for them to meet with the Foreman during his working hours. Commissioner Durkee stated their willingness to work together and resolve the safety issues and expressed her dismay with the lack of information being brought forth to the Commission. Commissioners Blezard and Fletcher expressed their discouragement for future projects.

First Selectman Chmielewski stated that he would do his best to present a list of items by their next meeting and thanked them for their volunteerism and service. He looks forward to moving forward and working together on their future projects.

The Grand Opening date of the Disc Golf Course is to be determined.

d. Forsyth Volunteer Pavilion – Planning

1) Ice Rink/Volleyball 2021 – Location/Project Plan (LOI/PZ/ILWL) – no update

Chairman Maziarz reported that the volleyball nets were received and are currently in storage.

2) Bob Appleby Memorial – Sue Spang & Dave Kennedy

Former Commission Chairperson Spang and Vice-Chairman Kennedy thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to speak. They commended them for their energy and hard work and are pleased to see that they are pursuing many of the projects that they had previously thought of or wished for.

Former Commission Chairperson Spang stated that Former Commissioner Bob Appleby served on the Commission for several years and spearheaded the town's Soccer Program. He was instrumental in organizing and coordinating the necessary work to prepare and establish the Forsyth Road/Volunteer Park Field. The project, an estimated cost of approximately \$200,000.00, was completed through his ability to bring people together and donate their time and energy. With his hard work and efforts, the town's soccer program grew to become as popular as baseball. He also played an active role in the Commission's 10-year plan for the Park. While the Commission was always somewhat apprehensive to dedicate and name a property after an individual, they felt that an exception should be made in this case and proposed dedicating and naming the field after Former Commissioner Appleby. They proposed installing an additional sign below the current sign, which was ordered from *Signcraft*. Former Commission Vice-Chairman Kennedy added that Former

Commissioner Appleby also coordinated and shared his volunteerism throughout all of the sports, not just soccer.

In response to Chairman Maziarz who questioned the necessary process, Former Commission Chairperson Spang recommended they review the Charter. The field is under the Recreation Commission's jurisdiction and the sign was purchased by the Commission. She recommended the Commissioners vote on the item, obtain estimates, and vote to appropriate the funding for the signage. She also proposed hosting a Dedication Ceremony.

Commissioner Durkee added that she always viewed Former Commissioner Appleby as Salem Soccer, stating that he had the ability to bring together, motivate, and inspire everyone, including the parents. He strived to create a unified and inclusive experience for all of the children, allowing them the opportunity to play and excel no matter their skill levels. She felt that he was a very positive representation of the town and its residents.

The Commissioners agreed that the establishment of the field has increased the town's options for various recreational activities. They thanked them for attending the meeting and presenting their proposal.

M/S/C: Maziarz/Durkee, to approve a plaque or signage dedicating Forsyth Road/Volunteer Field to former Recreation Commissioner Bob Appleby. Discussion: The Commissioners will work with former Commissioners Kennedy and Spang on the verbiage for the plaque/signage. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

e. Pickleball – Repaint Scheduled

Chairman Maziarz reported that the repainting of the Pickleball court will be placed on the vendor's Spring schedule; the date is to be determined.

f. Round Hill Recreation Complex – Amenities & Path Update

A Capital request for the project has been submitted to the Board of Finance. The project could also be funded through the town's ARPA Funds.

g. Adult Kickball – Spring Session

Similar to Adult Basketball and Volleyball, the Commission will host Pick-up Adult Kickball games in the Spring.

h. COVID Relief Funds – General Requests – *no update*

He is awaiting communication regarding the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee; the Commission is expected to receive funds to help support some of its projects.

i. IWL – Harris Brook Connector Bridge Repair Update

Chairman Maziarz reported that he attended this month's Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission (IWCC) meeting and provided a brief background regarding the bridge.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the bridge, other possible locations for a bridge, and the trail. IWC Commissioner Ed Natoli stated that the bridge is the final remaining piece to connect the Multi-Purpose Path to the Round Hill Road fields. The issue with its current location is that one is led to an unsafe area, should he/she turn left immediately after walking over the bridge. An alternative location for the bridge is along, what might be, part of an old Boy Scout Trail located behind the Babe Ruth Field. There is also a well-trodden trail that travels along Harris Brook that has been created by individuals that can be further established. Because Harris Brook is a tributary of the Eightmile River, he proposed requesting the Eightmile River Watershed Coordinating Committee to map the trail for the Commission. He recommended they maintain the bridge for the time being and decide whether they would like to move the bridge to another location or maintain and add a bridge at the secondary location.

Former Chairperson Spang, who was also the Chairperson of the Multi-Purpose Path Committee, noted that the area in which IWC Commissioner Natoli is proposing experiences severe flooding when the beaver dam is up. She stated that permits were acquired by the IWCC and Army Corps of Engineers to place seven crossings, one of which was to be located in the area of the beaver dam. A trail also exists behind the soccer field. The permits have since expired.

IWC Commissioner Natoli also suggested speaking with the Conservation Commission, which is part of the Inland Wetlands Commission and has an advisory role.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested, and the Commission agreed, organizing a field trip to walk the trail and view the areas being discussed.

k. Spring Concert – Planning Stage

The bands which received the highest vote and will be pursued are *The Pop Rocks*, *The Cartell's*, and *Coyote River Band*. According to CRPA's 2020 Entertainment Showcase Booklet, *The Pop Rocks'* fee range is \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00.

Commissioner Durkee recommended *Par 4 Curbside Catering* as a possible food truck for one of the events. Other food trucks that will be pursued are *Rustic Streats* and *Walsh's Waffle Wagon*.

The Spring Concert will be held on Saturday, May 7 and the Summer Concert will be held on Thursday, August 25.

1. Salem Basketball – MPR Backboard Renovation Update

Chairman Maziarz reported that the dimensions of the backboard have changed due to the parameters of the court.

9. New Business

a. Thank You Former Commissioners!

Chairman Maziarz reported that he has sent a letter of support for the re-appointments of Commissioners Fresco-Hawes and Natoli whose terms have expired. The Commissioners thanked them for their service, support, and hard work, adding that they are missed and hope they will be re-appointed. There are currently three (3) vacancies on the Commission.

b. Budget/Capital Requests

Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's proposed FY2022/23 Budget, which was reduced by \$5,000.00 last year.

M/S/C: Maziarz/Bleazard, to approve the FY2022/23 proposed budget for the Recreation Commission with an increase of \$10,000.00 in Line Item 5-645-946, Fee Base Activities, for a total of \$57,100.00. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

10. Adjournment

M/C: Bleazard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem